

Meeting	Council
Date and Time	Wednesday, 20th September, 2023 at 7.00 pm.
Venue	Council Chamber, Castle Hill, Winchester SO23 8UL. A live video stream of this meeting will be available from YouTube.com/WinchesterCC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 20th September, 2023 in the Council Chamber, Castle Hill, Winchester SO23 8UL and all Members of the Council are summoned to attend.

Note: This meeting is being held in person at the location specified above. Members of the public should note that the meeting will be streamed live to the council's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/WinchesterCC).

A limited number of seats will be made available at the above named location, however attendance must be notified to the council at least 3 working days before the meeting. Please note that priority will be given to those having registered to speak during the Public Question session over those wishing to attend and observe. Please note that Questions must be received in writing by Democratic Services (democracy@winchester.gov.uk) prior to noon, five working days preceding the day of the council meeting.

AGENDA

- 1. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 23 February 2023 and the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 17 May 2023.**
(Pages 7 - 30)
- 2. Disclosure of Interests**
To receive any disclosure of interests from Members or Officers in matters to be discussed.
Note: Councillors are reminded of their obligations to declare disclosable pecuniary interests, personal and/or prejudicial interests in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.
- 3. Announcements from the Mayor, Leader and Chief Executive.**



4. **Questions from Members of the Public**

To receive and answer and questions from the public.

(Questions must be received in writing by Democratic Services – democracy@winchester.gov.uk – no later than noon on Wednesday 13 September)

5. **Establishing a Local Housing Company (less exempt appendices) (CL168)** (Pages 31 - 56)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To approve the draft financial business plan at exempt Appendix C as recommended by Cabinet Committee: Housing
2. Subject to approval of the financial business plan, agree to reduce the share capital of Venta Living Ltd from £300,000 to £150,000.
3. To approve the appointment of Fiander Tovell Ltd as external auditors to Venta Living Ltd as recommended by Cabinet Committee: Housing.

6. **To consider and determine the following recommended minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held 3 July 2023 - Annual Scrutiny Report 2022/23 (SC089)** (Pages 57 - 76)

RECOMMENDED:

That Council note the annual scrutiny report for 2022/23.

7. **Notices of Motion**

- i. **To consider the following Motion to be proposed by Councillor Kelsie Learney.**

MOTION ON THE NATURE EMERGENCY

We are in the middle of a nature crisis. Almost half of all UK wildlife is in long term decline and 15% of species are at risk of extinction. The climate emergency is only hastening this destruction of the natural environment, damaging habitats and disrupting ecosystems. Yet it is these very habitats that have the potential to lock up carbon and fight back against rising global temperatures. It is essential that we not only protect these spaces, but let them thrive – for the benefit of people, planet and nature.

As we recover from the COVID-19 crisis, the need for nature-rich green spaces where we live and work is clearer than ever and will help health, education and the economy build back stronger. Action must be taken now to put nature into recovery at a local level, in support of regional, national and international work to do the same.

Council notes:

- The Council's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) agreed in 2021 delivering:
 - targeted action to halt loss of habitat, recreate and enhance habitat, and help species & habitats adapt to climate change,
 - management of a hierarchy of sites designated for nature conservation:
 - European designated sites – Solent Special Area of Conservation (SAC) & Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - National designated sites – River Itchen Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) & St Faith's Meadow SSSI
 - Regional and Local designated sites - Nature Reserves (Winnall) and non-statutory designations including Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).
 - work with partners including Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWT) to manage land for nature conservation, including Whiteshute Ridge SINC.
 - management of cemeteries, Open Spaces and recreation grounds for nature conservation, including on chalk grassland habitats.
 - the Wildflower Project which includes wildflower restoration, wildflower creation, and road verge wildflowers, including community projects and liaison.
 - ongoing protection of bats and birds and providing bird boxes and bat boxes with council house re-roofing projects
- The following policies contained in the Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation:
 - NE1: Protecting and enhancing Biodiversity and the Natural Environment in the district
 - NE4: Green and Blue Infrastructure
 - NE5: Biodiversity
 - NE15: Special Trees, Important Hedgerows and Ancient Woodlands
 - NE16: Nutrient Neutrality Water Quality Effects on the Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar Sites of the Solent and The River Itchen
- that in July 2022 Council affirmed the Council's policy aim to protect the catchments of our rare and precious habitats, the Itchen, Meon, Test (Dever) and Hamble rivers as far as possible from the cumulative impacts of pollution
- that Hampshire County Council is the responsible authority under Section 105 of the Environment Act 2021 for the Local Nature Recovery strategy covering Hampshire and the unitary authority areas of Portsmouth and Southampton.

This council resolves to:

1. Declare that we are experiencing a nature emergency recognising that
 - a. Nature is in long term decline and urgent action must be taken to reverse this.

- b. A thriving natural environment underpins a healthy, prosperous society.
 - c. The nature crisis and the climate emergency are intrinsically linked and that the impacts of the climate crisis drive nature's decline, while restoring nature can help to tackle the climate crisis.
 2. Consider the impact on nature's recovery in all strategic plans, policy areas and decision-making processes.
 3. Make nature based solutions part of our plans to tackle the climate emergency, taking forward, where appropriate and cost effective, the identified Nature intervention opportunities from the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan Roadmap
 4. Review the Council's biodiversity action plan for opportunities for further enhancement, and report on the progress made.
 5. Encourage and support, when we can, local wildlife agencies to recover our nature and natural environments including areas for habitat restoration widely across the district.
 6. Support Hampshire County Council in the creation and implementation of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
 7. Play our part in improving the quality of our local rivers and streams and campaign for faster Government and water company action to reduce sewage and nutrient pollution in our watercourses.
 8. Improve doorstep access to nature, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
 9. Work with local communities, organisations and businesses to help them make decisions and take action which support nature's recovery.
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ii. **To consider the following Motion to be proposed by Councillor Malcom Wallace.**

MOTION ON NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY

This Council notes the statement from Secretary of State Michael Gove that the Government plans to remove the 'Nutrient Neutrality' requirement for Natural England to advise councils not to approve housing schemes that will add to nutrient pollution in already damaged rivers and waterways.

The Council believes this would be a retrograde step which will further damage our already struggling waterways. The associated £280m 'offsetting' funding is an open acknowledgement that scrapping these rules will increase pollution. Further, this plan transfers responsibility and costs of dealing with pollution from profitable developers to the public.

The Council believes that instead of allowing housebuilders to pollute, the Government should require water companies and housebuilders to invest in upgrading the infrastructure needed as a prerequisite to development whilst continuing to enforce mitigation schemes. We further believe that with the right investment and appropriate regulation of all sources of pollution to our waterways, from treatment works to agriculture, communities can have both high-quality affordable homes and healthy waterways.

Therefore, this Council resolves to call on the Leader to write publicly to the Secretary of State and to our MPs to express the Council's views.

8. Changes to Committee Memberships

To receive any resignations from committees and to make any necessary re-appointments.

9. Questions from Members of Council

The total time for questions and the answer and supplementaries thereto shall not exceed 30 minutes.

10. EXEMPT BUSINESS: To consider whether in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(i) To pass a resolution that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100 (I) and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**11. Establishing a Local Housing Company (exempt appendices) (CL168)
(Pages 77 - 88)**

LAURA TAYLOR
Chief Executive

All of the Council's publicly available agendas, reports and minutes are available to view and download from the Council's [Website](#) and are also open to inspection at the offices of the council. As part of our drive to minimise our use of paper we do not provide paper copies of the full agenda pack at meetings. We do however, provide a number of copies of the agenda front sheet at the meeting which contains the QR Code opposite. Scanning this code enables members of the public to easily access all of the meeting papers on their own electronic device. Please hold your device's camera or QR code App over the QR Code so that it's clearly visible within your screen and you will be redirected to the agenda pack.



12 September 2023

Agenda Contact: David Blakemore, Democratic Services Team Manager
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Quorum = 15 members

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may ask questions of the Leader, Cabinet Members and Committee Chairs at Ordinary Meetings of the Council. The total time allocated for questions by the public shall normally be limited to 20 minutes.

A question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing to Democratic Services no later than 5 working days preceding the Council meeting. For example, if the Council meeting is being held at 7pm on a Wednesday then the question would need to be received by noon on the preceding Wednesday. Please email to democracy@winchester.gov.uk.

FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This meeting will be recorded and broadcast live on the Council's website. The meeting may also be recorded and broadcast by the press and members of the public – please see the Access to Information Procedure Rules within the Council's Constitution for further information, which is available to view on the [Council's website](#).

DISABLED ACCESS:

Disabled access is normally available, but please phone Democratic Services on 01962 848 264 or email democracy@winchester.gov.uk to ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place.